

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 074301
ORIGIN EA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:DLFIELD, JR.

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S/NM:RMGIBSON (DRAFT)

EA:RBOAKLEY (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074301

STADIS//////////
EA AND S/NM ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: HIRC AUTHORIZATION HEARINGS ON INC PROGRAM

1. DURING AUTHORIZATION HEARINGS ON THE FY 1979 INC BUDGET SUBMISSION BEFORE THE HIRC COMBINED SUBCOMMITTEES FOR EAST ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA THIS MORNING, CHAIRMAN WOLFF CONCLUDED NEARLY 2 1/2 HOURS OF TESTIMONY BY SENIOR NARCOTICS ADVISOR MATHEA FALCO AND DEA ADMINISTRATOR PETER BENSINGER BY STATING THAT HE WOULD INCLUDE IN THE AUTHORIZATION BILL A REQUIREMENT THAT A DEA AGENT BE STATIONED IN RANGOON BEFORE ANY FUNDS COULD BE OBLIGATED IN BURMA UNDER THE INC PROGRAM IN FY 1979. IN MAKING THIS POINT, THE CHAIRMAN EMPHASIZED THE "INORDINATE AMOUNT OF AIRCRAFT" PROVIDED TO THE GUB "WITHOUT DIRECT SUPERVISION," AND NOTED AN EARLIER PROPOSAL (WHICH WAS NOT ADOPTED BY THE HIRC) TO WITHHOLD FUNDS PENDING AN END-USE REPORT BY THE
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GUB.

2. NEITHER STATE NOR DEA WITNESSES COMMENTED ON THIS STATEMENT. QUESTIONING BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF RELATED TO BURMA WAS GENERALLY CRITICAL AND WAS ANSWERED POINT-BY-POINT DURING MS. FALCO'S TESTIMONY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CHAIRMAN ASKED SEVERAL TIMES WHAT THE GUB IS DOING TO PUT

SHAN STATE HEROIN REFINERIES "OUT OF BUSINESS" AND

REFERRED REPEATEDLY TO THE REFINERY-RELATED INTELLIGENCE
"PASSED IN NOVEMBER OF 1977 BY DEA TO THE STATE DEPART-
MENT." MS. FALCO EXPRESSED HER WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS
THIS MATTER FULLY IN EXECUTIVE SESSION (A PROPOSAL
WHICH WOLFF DID NOT ACCEPT). MR. BENSINGER RESPONDED
SIMILARLY, ADDING THAT THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES FOR THIS
INTELLIGENCE WERE NOT LIMITED TO DEA AND THAT THIS
INFORMATION HAD BEEN PASSED TO THE GUB BY EMBASSY
RANGOON. WHEN DIRECTLY ASKED, MR. BENSINGER STATED THAT
THE REFINERIES ARE STILL OPERATING.

3. DEPT INTENDS TO FIGHT HARD TO PREVENT INCLUSION OF
THIS REQUIREMENT IN THE FINAL INC AUTHORIZATION. VANCE

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